

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

Thirty years is quite a long time for one man to sit in an editorial chair—and thirty-six years is still longer. For thirty-six years Lynds Jones has sat in the editorial chair of the Wilson Ornithological Club. For thirty years, excepting the year 1901, he has assembled the copy, read the proof, distributed the magazines, jollied the printer, and otherwise piloted the WILSON BULLETIN.

During this period the WILSON BULLETIN has experienced some growth and expansion; it did not burst into being, fully-formed, Minerva-like! Such growth has not come spontaneously, but as the result of long and patient and nourishing care.

Perhaps the two greatest editors of American ornithological periodicals have been Dr. J. A. Allen and Dr. Elliott Coues. Dr. Allen, besides his long service and his mastery of organization in publication detail, stands out conspicuously for his unequalled ability in reviewing contemporaneous literature. His reviews, both expository and critical, created the impression of judicial finality. Dr. Coues' editorial service, though relatively short, is made memorable through the literary style and the pungency of his editorial columns. He was a spectacular writer, whose diction was marvelous.

Dr. Jones has been a builder. Starting with nothing he has, with tenacious persistence, built a magazine and has captained it through many severe trials and adversities. In the early years, from 1892 to 1900, each issue might have been the last one—and in numerous instances would have been the last one had not Dr. Jones paid up a financial deficit out of his own pocket. The accrued total of these deficits up to 1914 amounted to several hundred dollars.

During these early years many other similar amateur journals of ornithology perished by the wayside. The fact that the WILSON BULLETIN survived is chiefly due to the sacrifice, loyalty, and persistence of one man. And this may be said without grudging the meed of praise to others who have lent a helping hand through the years.

We must also recognize that the WILSON BULLETIN was the cradle of the Wilson Ornithological Club in its infancy. Without the molding and welding influence of the publication the organization would certainly have disintegrated.

It seems to us, therefore, that Dr. Jones occupies a keystone position in the present organization of our Club. A man may never be fully and rightly appraised during his life-time, but it is possible that his work be in some measure recognized and appreciated. This, it is certain, our Club wishes to do in the ease of our retiring Editor.

Those who have been with us as members for some years may know something of the financial struggle to keep the Club's publication in the open current—though they may not know the inside story. We hope to be able sometime to tell this story.

While Dr. Jones is now relieved of some of the burdensome duties of editorship it does not mean that he has retired from actual service. We trust that his name will appear more frequently in the pages of the BULLETIN, as author, than heretofore. We hope also to have the benefit of his counsel in formulating the future policies of the Club's publication.

Complete sets of the WILSON BULLETIN are no longer obtainable from the Club. This being the case an effort should be made to conserve the existing sets so far as possible. Nothing will be so helpful to this end as to have a list of the known sets in existence. Therefore, the WILSON BULLETIN solicits information as to the location of all complete sets, or nearly complete sets, of this magazine. Such a list will then be published when it seems to be reasonably complete. We would also like to know about how many of our readers are having the BULLETIN bound.

At the Nashville meeting of the Wilson Club there was some talk in a small group relative to a possible round-robin communication among amateur bird photographers. The consensus of opinion was that there should be some clearing-house, or medium of exchange of practical experiences. Many who are beginners in this business and others who may rate as experienced amateurs often need advice or information on some matter of equipment, of material, or of methods. The problem is to bring together the man who knows and the man who wants to know. The WILSON BULLETIN will be glad to sponsor such a movement if there is any desire for it on the part of the readers.

Word has come from officers of the Club to the effect that something over \$400 has already been subscribed to the "Better Bulletin Club". The Editor is not informed whether this sum includes the increase in dues from changes in membership classification; or whether it represents straight contributions. In either case the funds will be applied first to liquidation of accrued deficits and then to improvement of the WILSON BULLETIN. Probably it will take \$500.00 to clear our slate, and it seems that we are within one hundred dollars of that amount now. The Editor pledges himself to do his part to keep the publication expenses within the budget of income. We will run on a pay-as-we-go basis.